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SHAFTESBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL

*Dorsel*

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR  
1956



Medical Officer of Health -

NOEL F. PEARSON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector -

W.N. TEASDALE, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.



Council Offices,  
STURMINSTER NEWTON,  
Dorset.

1st June 1957.

To the Mayor, Aldermen & Councillors,  
Shaftesbury Borough Council.

Madam & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1956.

The report is prepared and will be circulated in accordance with the requirements of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations 1935 and 1951.

The report shows that the health of the Borough has remained satisfactory. There was no undue incidence of infectious disease. The vital statistics compare favourably with those for the Country as a whole. It is particularly satisfactory to note that no new cases of tuberculosis (or deaths from that disease) were notified during the year, that no death in an infant under one year of age occurred and that, during the past four years, no death attributable to pregnancy or childbirth has occurred.

When consideration is given to the very large amount of additional work undertaken in Mr. Teasdale's Department during the year, in the planning of a new housing estate and in important Water and Sewerage Contracts, the wisdom of the Council in appointing Mr. Stroud as Technical Assistant in the Department will be appreciated. This will be particularly so when it is realised that no private Architects' or Consulting Engineers' fees have been incurred in connection with this work.

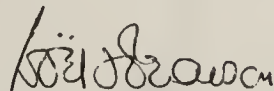
Mr. Teasdale wishes to record the excellent and able assistance he has received from Mr. Stroud in this connection and to express his appreciation for the amount of routine office work which his clerk, Mrs.M.Hillier, has got through during the year.

I am indebted to Mr.Teasdale, your Public Health Inspector, for his co-operation and help during the year and for his assistance in preparing this report, and to my clerk, Mrs.P.Dyas, for her efficient services.


I would also like to thank you, Madam and Gentlemen, for your courtesy and consideration throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,



Medical Officer of Health.



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SHAFTESBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR

1956

Area - 1,078 acres.  
Rateable value: 1956 - £41,021; 1957 - £39,334.  
Production of a penny rate: 1956/57 - £164; 1957/58 - £156.

Vital Statistics.

Population (Registrar General's Estimate) - 3,420.

LIVE BIRTHS.

	Male.	Female.		Comparative rates (a)Shaftesbury Borough (b) England & Wales.	
Total	25	2	) Rate per 1,000		
Legitimate	25	21	) resident pop:		
Illegitimate	Nil	1	) = 13.4	14.0	15.7

STILLBIRTHS.

Total	1	-	Rate per 1,000 live & stillbirths = 20.8	20.8	23.0
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DEATHS.

Total	23	20	Rate per 1,000 resident pop: = 12.5	9.5	11.7
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Deaths in infants under one year	Nil	Nil	Infantile death rate per 1,000 live births = Nil	Nil	23.8
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		1956.	1955.	1954.	1953.
Deaths from Maternal Causes	-	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
" " Tuberculosis	-	Nil	1	Nil	Nil
" " Cancer of the Lungs	-	1	1	2	Nil
" " Coronary Disease (Angina)	-	8	8	4	8
" " Influenza	-	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
" " Pneumonia	-	2	7	3	1
" " Motor vehicle accidents	-	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
" " All other accidents	-	Nil	1	Nil	Nil
" " Suicide	-	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil



## B. Nature of the District.

Shaftesbury is an ancient Borough with strong historical connections. It is a market town supplying the requirements of the farming community in the surrounding districts. Its principal industries and trades include glove making and the central depot for the Southern Electricity Board and Post Office Engineers is stationed there. A Government Radio Station is also within its boundaries.

## C. Personal Health Services in the District.

The personal health services continued to be provided by the County Council and have proved satisfactory and no further comment is considered necessary in connection with them.

The ambulance services are provided by the County Council using the St. John Ambulance Brigade as their agent. An efficient service has been maintained during the year.

The hospital services are provided by the Salisbury and the Bournemouth and West Hants Hospital Management Committees, the local hospital being the Westminster Memorial Hospital, having in-patient beds, an outpatient department and a maternity annexe.

## D. Environmental Health Services.

### SANITARY STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health (Part time) - Noel F. Pearson,  
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

He also acts as Medical Officer of Health to four other District Councils in the North Dorset Area and as Assistant County Medical Officer to the Dorset County Council.

The time available which he has to devote to his duties with your Council is something less than one half day per week.

Public Health Inspector (Part time) - William Norman Teasdale,  
M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.  
Certificate of R.S.H. &  
S.I.E.J.B.  
Certificate of R.S.H. as  
Inspector of Meat and  
Other Foods.

Technical Assistant (Part time) - Philip Stroud.

Clerical Staff (Full time) - One shorthand typist/clerk.

### WATER SUPPLY.

Quantity. At the Barton Hill Wells the improvement in levels during 1955 was not maintained during 1956. The winter had been reasonably dry followed by a wet and stormy summer. In spite of this, however, the levels began to fall again in the autumn and at the end of the year the supply had fallen to an average of 12,000 gallons per day below consumption. Fortunately, Shaftesbury Rural District Council were in a position to continue pumping from the auxiliary supply to augment the Borough Supply.

In spite of the fall in levels towards the end of the year, the total yield from the Barton Hill Wells was 45,069,000 gallons, an increase



of 377,000 gallons upon the 1955 figures. In addition, 888,000 gallons were pumped from the Shaftesbury Rural District, a fall of 627,000 from 1954. This, representing an overall fall in consumption of 250,000 gallons, spread over the year and taking into account the wet summer shows little change from last year.

Quality. Twenty-four samples of water from the Council's mains supply submitted during the year for bacteriological examination gave satisfactory results.

One sample, taken from a cottage thought to be on the Council's mains supply, was found to be unsatisfactory. Investigation showed that this and adjacent cottages were still being supplied from the long past condemned Castle Hill Supply. Action was taken to get these properties transferred to the Council's Supply.

In subsequent items of this report reference is made to the discovery (in the course of other work) of seriously defective sewers in the town area. Bearing in mind that the Council's water supply is derived from deep wells into porous greensand beneath the town, into which contamination from defective sewers could well penetrate, the necessity for the constant supervision over the purity of the supply and its chlorination as a further safeguard, can well be appreciated.

New Connections and Extensions. More replacement and improvements of mains supplies have been undertaken during 1955/56 than at any time since the water undertaking was first installed.

The new 6" main in Christys Lane was completed in 1955, but was not brought into use until last year. This has greatly improved the pressures in the Coppice Street area as well as providing a link main to the Lower Blandford Road area and a direct feed from the Salisbury Road Reservoir to the main Ivy Cross Reservoir.

The relaying of the Barton Hill and part of Wincombe Lane main in larger 4" pipes was completed in June and afforded a 3" supply to the new cattle market at Christys Lane. The estate development in that area did not materialise during the year but provision is now available for a 3" main to serve the estate.

The larger project of replacing the old 2" cast iron main in the Gold Hill, St. James Street, Layton Lane area was commenced in September and was almost half completed by the end of the year. The number of breakages in the old main during the course of the contract has emphasised the fact that this work could not have been delayed any longer and excavations for the main have brought to light certain defects in the construction of the old St. James Street sewers.

New Connections carried out during the year were as follows:-

Domestic use	3
Agricultural purposes	2
Other purposes	3

Domestic Supply. 1,067 houses (having an approximate population of 3,340) are served with the public supply into the house, 35 houses (having an approximate population of 60) are served by outside standpipes only.

#### DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Blockages continue to occur on the Holyrood Farm disposal system, but the disposal has not given rise to complaints and has been working reasonably well. Similarly, the Paynes Place disposal has worked satisfactorily as a result of frequent operation of the sluices. At Enmore Green, the filtration tank has caused trouble with periodic chokages in the filter. This filter has now been replaced by a sedimentation tank and (by means of a cesspool emptying contract) conditions have improved.



The breakdown in the Layton Lane sewer has been rectified and part of this has been relaid to a new line in pitch fibre pipe and two new manholes introduced in the line of sewer. The Tanyard Lane sewer gave rise to another blockage and it is anticipated that this will have to be renewed at a fairly early date.

The Shooters Lane ~~to~~ Barton Hill sewer project was not commenced during the year, the commencement being delayed until January 1957.

A leakage of sewage into cellars behind the congested property in High Street resulted in excavations and the discovery of a serious defect in the sewer serving this property. Owing to the congestion and narrow space, the work of repair was difficult, but was carried out successfully and an additional manhole constructed to facilitate access in the event of further trouble.

The discovery of live ammunition in the Victoria Street sewer during the clearing of a blockage gave rise to some initial apprehension, but was soon cleared and the appropriate authorities informed.

A collapse of road foundations in the High Street near the Town Hall revealed a defect in the old sewer as it entered the new Gold Hill sewer and the introduction of a manhole was necessary in order to control the junction of two main sewers and several drain connections.

There is no doubt that the preparing and completing the sewer and water contracts will, by the end of 1957, afford much better facilities for the town and should go a long way to arresting the frequent troubles arising from defective sewers and water mains. At the same time, the work proceeding on the preparation of complete and accurate plans of all existing sewers and water mains, will entail considerable time and surveys for some time to come.

#### PUBLIC CLEANSING.

##### House Refuse.

Collection. The Council undertakes a weekly refuse collection. The unsightliness of kerbside collections in the town remains, together with the wide variety of unsuitable containers. It is in the Council's hands to enforce the use of regulation dustbins, but the problem of collection from the rear of premises is one calling for the use of more labour. During the year (for economy reasons) the number of manual staff for all the Council's general works was reduced by twenty per cent, so that any attempt to increase time spent on refuse collection was made impossible under present conditions. Therefore, it is not likely that kerbside collections will be dispensed with for some considerable time.

Disposal. The tip at Salisbury Road was filled several years ago and, owing to the lack of an alternative site in the Borough, refuse is now being tipped above ground level. This has created many problems and will eventually result in a mound of refuse. It is also giving rise to greater aeration of refuse and, being in an exposed position, strong winds rapidly encourage spontaneous combustion to such an extent that a small area of fire in the tip burst into flame during the year enveloping most of the tipping area. Apart from presenting difficulties in the provision of safe tipping space, it has created serious nuisance to the few householders in the area, with no hope of improvement for a considerable time. All labour at the tip is manual and no plant is available for covering down, compressing or excavation and the modern method of controlled tipping cannot be brought into play.

The Council has been attempting to find an alternative site for refuse tipping, so far without result.



PUBLIC CLEANSING (Continued)

Street Cleansing.

This is reasonably well carried out on the main roads and main streets of the town, but several streets rarely receive any attention apart from that given during weed trimming, once or twice a year, in the absence of sufficient labour and plant to do the work. Litter bins are not the complete answer as the provision of these entails the use of labour in their emptying. To afford the regular sweeping of all streets at least once per week would mean the engaging of two extra men for that purpose, as the public are not yet sufficiently litter conscious always to use litter bins when they are provided. The engaging of extra men on street cleansing would also assist in keeping pavements clear of dogs excreta, a fact which gives rise to considerable nuisance particularly in the shopping areas of the town.

RIVERS AND STREAMS POLLUTION.

No material improvement can be expected until a comprehensive new sewage disposal scheme for the Borough has been effected.

SHOPS ACT.

The Borough Council is the responsible Authority for the administration of the Shops Act 1950 within the Borough.

No. of inspections carried out	42
No. of defects found	6
No. of notices served	6
No. of notices complied with	6

FACTORIES ACT 1937.

	<u>No. of premises on register.</u>	<u>Inspections.</u>	<u>Written Notices.</u>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority	2	4	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	15	17	2
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	14	35	4
Total	- 31	56	6

	<u>No. of cases in which defects were Found.</u>	<u>Remedied.</u>
Want of cleanliness	1	1
Ineffective drainage of floors	1	1
Sanitary Conveniences - Unsuitable of defective	4	4
Total	- 6	6

No. of outworkers = 45.

#### SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No action was called for or taken during the year.

#### SWIMMING BATHS.

There is one open air swimming bath in the Borough provided by the Council.

The system of chlorination and filtration at the Barton Hill open air bath continued to prove adequate for the time being and bacteriological sampling gave satisfactory results. Owing to the wet summer, the use made of the bath was not quite so great as in the previous year.

The first stage of the improvements was carried out in time for the commencement of the season and the much needed new sanitary block brought into use. Provision has been made for the building of new dressing rooms, by stages, and it is a pity that the recent curtailment in capital expenditure has prevented these necessary improvements from being completed.

#### MOVEABLE DWELLINGS AND CAMPING SITES.

No dwellings or sites were licensed during the year. Successful informal action was taken against a caravan sited in the Bimport cinema car park. Isolated cases of caravans being sited on the Showfield still occurred during the year, but these dwellings were eventually moved after informal action.

#### VERMINOUS PREMISES.

No action was called for or taken during the year.

#### PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT 1949.

The duties of the Council under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949 are carried out in the district by the North Dorset Joint Rodent Committee whose activities cover the five districts in North Dorset and the Beaminster Rural District.

Very little infestation of property has been reported and most of it has had a direct connection with infestation at the refuse tip and the sewers. The tip fire drove the infestation in that area further afield, but there is no doubt that the fire did good work in that connection, as those rats which were not destroyed by the fire were driven into the open and became more subject to poison baiting as their food and nesting place in the refuse were destroyed. The infestation of the sewers shows a superficial increase only, as the result of the introduction of new sewer manholes have made the old sewers more accessible for baiting purposes. The six monthly treatment of the sewers is having a good result, although the nature of the outfalls and sewage pits is such that complete eradication of rats is most difficult to obtain.

#### RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT 1951.

No premises in the Borough are registered or licensed under this Act.



## PET ANIMALS ACT 1951.

No premises in the Borough are registered or licensed under this Act.

## SCHOOLS (INCLUDING SCHOOL CANTEENS).

A considerable improvement in facilities were put in hand during the year at the Grammar School. The completion of the new changing rooms has met a long felt need and other work to be carried out will effect a major improvement. The conversion of the former Cann Rectory to dormitory and changing accommodation is a further improvement.

## NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS 1948 & 1951 - Section 47.

No action was called for under these Acts during the year.

## HOUSING.

Total number of houses in the district 1,102

### Inspection of dwelling houses during the year -

Total No. of dwelling houses inspected during the year 349

No. of inspections made 506

No. of informal notices served 171

No. of informal notices complied with 132

No. of statutory notices served Nil

No. of statutory notices complied with Nil

No. of houses reported under Section 11  
of the Housing Act 1936 Nil

Action taken by the Local Authority in respect  
of such houses -

Demolition Orders made Nil

Undertakings accepted for -

Closure Nil

Reconditioning Nil

Other action Nil

No. of houses included in Clearance Areas during the year 11

## Overcrowding.

One case of statutory overcrowding was found during the year and abated.

## Houses Let in Lodgings.

No houses in the Borough are known to be let in lodgings.

## Requisitioned Premises.

One house was held by the Council under requisition at the end of the year.

## Rehousing.

Nine families were rehoused by the Council, most of whom were living in sub-standard houses, the majority being controlled by undertakings already received from owners to carry out improvements which could not be done until the houses had been vacated.

## Housing Applications.

Resident within the district	<u>29</u>
Resident without the district	<u>25</u>

This is an appreciable reduction on the comparative figures for the preceding year. It must, however, be remembered that most occupants of houses proposed for slum clearance are not applicants for Council houses and these persons will have to come on the Council's list as a first priority.

## Housing and Slum Clearance.

No new houses were provided by the Council during the year. Apart from the twelve old people's dwellings at Barton Hill completed last year, no houses have been built by the Council since 1954.

Nine families were rehoused during the year in existing Council houses, most of the families coming from 'unfit' houses on which statutory action had already been taken.

No slum clearance was carried out during the year, although one proposed clearance area in St. James comprising eleven houses was represented to the Council. At the date this report was prepared, the Council had not determined its action with regard to this area of which eight of the houses are owned by the Council.

Several difficulties face the Council in dealing with this and other slum property in the Borough - the principal difficulty is that, at the present time, the Council has no houses available into which to transfer those living in unfit property.

Whether the anticipated changes in the staffing of certain Institutions in the district, the provision of the proposed housing estates by private enterprise or the effects of the Housing Bill now before Parliament will resolve this difficulty, is still mere conjecture.

Whether the Council will have to amend its rent policy to meet the objections raised with regard to slum dwellers being asked to pay the high rents of newly built houses will have to be given serious consideration by the Council.

Among all these considerations, one plain fact stands out predominantly and this is that those people at present living in grossly unfit dwellings (some of whom are the Council's own tenants) cannot be allowed to live under those conditions indefinitely.

The Council will have to determine its policy - and apply it.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES.

### Milk.

No change has taken place in the registration of dairies and distributors in the area. Milk sampling from retailers has continued to be carried out by officers of the County Health Department for the Borough Council, in the course of their other duties, and this arrangement has worked very well. It has overcome the difficulties encountered owing to the distance of the County Laboratory from the town.

Representations were made during the year by parents of one school with regard to the condition of the milk supplied to the children, and the County Education Authorities found it necessary to change the supply of the milk to schools in the area.



Food & Drugs (Milk & Dairies) Act 1944.

No. of 'dealers' subject to registration by the District Council under regulation 14 of the Milk (Special Designations)(Raw Milk) Regulations 1949\_\_\_\_\_2

No. of 'dealers' subject to licensing under regulation 14 of the Milk (Special Designations) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations 1949\_\_\_\_\_2

No. of 'dairies' in the district subject to registration under regulation 8 of the Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949\_\_\_\_\_Nil

No. of 'distributors' subject to registration under regulation 8 of the Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949\_\_\_\_\_2

Samples.

No. of samples of milk taken and submitted for examination during the year:-

	<u>Passed.</u>	<u>Failed.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Tuberculin Tested	6	-	6
Accredited	-	-	-
Pasteurised	57	-	57
Non-designated	-	-	-

Milk & Dairies Regulations 1949 - Regulation 20.

No action was called for or taken during the year.

Other Food Premises.

The number of food premises in the area, by type of business:-

Hotels, restaurants, cafes and boarding houses	8
Canteens - School and workplace	6
Confectioners	6
Meat and Fish	6
Grocers	7
Mixed Stores	7
Boarding Schools and other residential institutions	2
Food factories	6
Stalls	Nil
Other	24

No. of above subject to registration under Section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act 1955 in respect of -

Ice-cream	17
Sausages & prepared meats	7
Fish and chips	2

No. of samples of ice-cream submitted for Methylene Blue Test Nil

No. of premises inspected during the year\_\_\_\_\_65

No. of inspections carried out\_\_\_\_\_126

Food Hygiene Regulations 1955 - 1956.

With the advent of the new Food Hygiene Regulations, it has not been found possible to carry out all the initial inspections of the food premises in the area to find how far short of the requisite minimum standard any of them may be. There are 72 premises of all descriptions within the purview of the regulations. As a preliminary, all of them have been circulated drawing attention to the requirements of the Regulations and enclosing a pamphlet or guide drawn up by the Central Council for Health Education.



This has had the desired effect in cases where, as a result, plans have been submitted for the approval of alterations and improvements. In other cases, enquiries have been made for instructions to be given as to the improvement of the premises. Most of this work saves formal action being taken and often encourages a greater amount of improvement than may be required formally by the Regulations.

Certain informal action has been required with regard to mobile canteens in the area on market days and other special occasions, but with the opening of a new canteen at the Cattle Market it is expected that the numbers of these mobile canteens in the area will be reduced.

So far, no exemption certificates have yet been issued under The Food Hygiene Regulations.

#### Ice-cream (Heat Treatment Etc.) Regulations 1947 - 1952.

All ice-cream sold in the Borough is supplied pre-packed and none is manufactured locally.

#### Byelaws in respect of Handling and Wrapping of Food Etc.

Such Byelaws are operative within the Borough.

#### Food Inspection.

Slaughterhouses. There is only one licensed slaughterhouse in the Borough.

In the second full year since the re-opening of the Littledown Abattoir the number of animals killed continued to increase, subject to the usual seasonal fluctuations. A total of 2,984 animals were killed, 591 more than 1955 or an increase of 24.7%. This increase of 591 comprised the following animals.

Cattle	-	133 (109.9%)	Calves	-	371 (12.1%)
Pigs	-	52 (236.4%)	Sheep	-	35 (205.9%)

As the number of cattle killed has more than doubled (and these usually take more time in inspection than other animals) and in order to restrain the time spent on inspection to reasonable bounds, the increased inspection of cattle has had to be done at the expense of the inspection of calves. The number of hours of inspection over the year has only increased by a total of 5 hours, but the greater percentage of the total time spent has been done in the evenings and on Sundays, and it is safe to say that between 80 - 90% of the inspections are carried out at these times. It would be impossible to do it at other times and still get through all the other work and duties of the appointment.

With regard to the structural condition of the abattoir, this has not improved during the year and the drainage has so deteriorated that informal action has had to be taken for the improvement of the settlement capacity, filtration and final effluent.

The total quantity of food condemned as unfit was as follows:-

Beef	..	2,379 lbs.
Beef Offal	..	1,045 "
Veal	..	319 "
Calf Offal	..	140 "
Sheep Offal	..	4 "
Pork	..	8 "
Pig Offal	..	15 "

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Total - 3,910 lbs.

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Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	157	97	2,604	74	52
Number inspected	157	97	2,604	74	52
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	3	7	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	22	38	17	2	3
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	14.0	42.9	0.9	2.7	5.8
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	1	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1	5	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	0.6	6.2	-	-	-
<u>Cysticercosis:</u>					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	1	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-

Butchers' Shops and Other Premises.

No meat was condemned at butchers' shops, probably as the result of 100 per cent inspection at the abattoir. The quantity of imported beef listed on the next page was that condemned for bone taint at a local canteen.

The total quantity of tinned foodstuffs condemned at grocers' shops shows a slight decrease on that for the previous year and is not any higher than would be expected when compared with the annual turnover of these shops in all tinned goods handled by them.

Food condemned -

Tinned Meat	..	76 lbs.
" Fruit	..	112 "
" Vegetables	..	31 "
" Fish	..	7 "
" Milk	..	22 "
Imported Beef	..	204 "

Total - 452 lbs.

Disposal of Condemned Food.

All food condemned at food shops in the area is voluntarily surrendered, or disposed of by the proprietors after they have given a written undertaking not to use it for human consumption. In practice, arrangements are made with the proprietors for this food to be put out with the weekly refuse collection and it is disposed of by the Council at their refuse tip.

With regard to meat condemned at butchers' shops, this is collected by the Council, small quantities are buried at the refuse tip and larger quantities disposed of to a local glue factory or to a local hunt kennels after the meat has been suitably dyed.

At the slaughterhouse, condemned offal is deposited with a local pig farmer, who sterilises it before it is used as pig food. Carcases and parts of carcases condemned are dyed and disposed of by the owner of the slaughterhouse either to a pet shop as cat and dog food or to a skin and hide firm for commercial use.

Basement Bakehouses.

There is one basement bakehouse in the town which is licensed for use under the Factories Act 1937 in so far as the premises are considered suitable for the purpose for which they are used.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTIONS (INCLUDING HOUSING) CARRIED OUT.

Total No. of inspections (under all headings)	2,962
Total No. of informal notices served	204
Total No. of informal notices complied with	186
Total No. of statutory notices served	2
Total No. of statutory notices complied with	2
No. of prosecutions	Nil

E. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.

Other than Tuberculosis -

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Total Cases Notified.</u>
Scarlet Fever	1

Tuberculosis -

<u>New Cases Notified.</u>	
<u>Respiratory.</u>	<u>Non-Respiratory.</u>
Nil.	Nil.



### Food Poisoning.

No cases of suspected food poisoning were formally notified during the year, but two outbreaks of suspected food poisoning (at a weekly interval) occurred affecting a large number of pupils attending Schools in the Borough and the surrounding rural district which obtain their mid-day meal from the Education Committee's Central School Kitchen in the Borough. In the second outbreak, there were 153 ascertained cases. For the most part, the illness suffered was mild in nature and of short duration.

Very full bacteriological and other investigations failed to find the cause of the outbreaks, but other measures taken appeared to eliminate the cause as no further outbreak has since occurred.

NOEL F. PEARSON.

Medical Officer of Health.







